

Van Weyer-Van Keuren House
138 Green Street
Kingston
Ulster County
New York

HABS No. NY-5575

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

VAN WEYE-VAN KEUREN HOUSE

Location: 138 Green Street, Kingston, Ulster County,
New York

Latitude 41° 56' 00" Longitude 74° 01' 20"

Present Owner and
Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. William A. Carl.

Present Use: Private residence.

Significance: This is a good example of a large rubble stone residence which was built prior to the American Revolution and burned by the British with the village of Kingston in the raid of October 16, 1777. The house has had an exceptionally good job of restoration and reconstruction done to it in the 1920s.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The house was probably build before 1710 and rebuilt after 1777.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Hendrick Van Weye (also spelled Wey, Weyen, Wyen), the first person to own the house at the corner of Green and John Streets, seems to have settled in the Kingston area in the late 1670s. In 1678 and 1679 he bought four lots of land in Kingston, one of which included a barn and another a house. Nothing about these buildings or their location is known.

The first positive reference to a house on the Green Street site is in 1711 when the children of Hendrick Van Weye sold their father's "...house and Lott of ground situate Lying and being in the Town of Kingston to the north of the ground of Pieter Gimair to the south and east of the streets it being a corner house and lott of ground..." The house remained in the Van Keuren family until 1870.

- 1710/11 Deed: 3 March 1710/11 Recorded: No date available,
liber BB, page 484
Hendrick Van Weye,
Antie Freer, and
Jacob Freer, son, daughter and son-in-law of the
late Hendrick Van Weye,
to
Tjerck Mattyson
(Tjerck was the son of Mattys Mattys. The new
Mattyson surname, Van Keuren, was not adopted
until around 1717).
- 1858 Will written: 5 May 1858 Proved: 31 May 1858
liber N of wills, page 567
Abraham G. Van Keuren
to
William Van Keuren
James W. Van Keuren
Margaret Van Keuren, his children
- 1859 Deed: 19 March 1859 Recorded: 30 March 1859
liber 107, page 166
William Van Keuren, son of Abraham G. Van Keuren
to
James W. Van Keuren
Margaret Elizabeth Van Keuren, his brother and
sister
- 1862 Deed: 28 March 1862 Recorded: 23 April 1862
liber 119, page 578
James W. Keuren, brother of William Van Keuren
Mary L. Van Keuren, his wife
to
Margaret E. Van Keuren, his sister
- 1870 Deed: 29 April 1870 Recorded: 29 April 1870
liber 163, page 11
Margaret E. Van Keuren, sister of William
and James W. Van Keuren
to
Conrad Low
Elizabeth Low
- 1872 Will written: 15 January 1872 Proved: 4 March 1872
liber Q of wills, page 646
Conrad Low
to
Elizabeth Low, his sister

Elizabeth Low died, date unknown
Heirs: John Vanderlyn
Jane E. Vaughan
Sarah M. Vanderlyn
Catherine Vanderlyn

1876 John Vanderlyn died 27 September 1876
Heirs: Jane E. Vaughan
Sarah M. Vanderlyn
Catherine Vanderlyn

1878 Jane E. Vaughan died 29 December 1878
Heirs: Charles D. Vaughan
W. Levi R. Vaughan

1880 Will written: 29 January 1880 Proved: 27 July 1880
liber V of wills, page 483
Charles D. Vaughan
to
Kate Vanderlyn
Sarah M. Vanderlyn, sisters

1886 Will written: 20 November 1879 Recorded: 15 November 1886
liber Y of wills, page 32
Sarah M. Vanderlyn
to
Kate Vanderlyn, her sister

1886 Deed: 22 November 1886 Recorded: 19 May 1892
liber 305, page 474
W. Levi R. Vaughan
to
Catherine Vanderlyn

1892 Will written: 13 May 1887 Recorded: 27 April 1892
liber 1 of wills, page 577
Catherine Vanderlyn
to
Augustus Schoonmaker
Nicholas E. Brodhead
Nicholas E. Brodhead quit and letters were issued
to Augustus Schoonmaker as sole executor

- 1892 Deed: 1 August 1892 Recorded: 8 August 1892
liber 307, page 55
Augustus Schoonmaker, executor of will of
Catherine Vanderlyn
to
Giles Whitney
- 1893 Deed: 26 May 1893 Recorded: 9 June 1893
liber 311, page 616
Giles Whitney
Mary Whitney, his wife
to
William F. Anderson
- 1913 Deed: 20 January 1913 Recorded: 21 January 1913
liber 441, page 176
William F. Anderson
Lulu K. Anderson, his wife
to
Herbert Carl
- 1923 Deed: 26 April 1923 Recorded: 28 April 1923
liber 496, page 18
Herbert Carl
Lucinda W. Carl, his wife
to
William A. Carl
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Not known.
5. Original plan and construction: The stone part of the house is eight bays across the front. The section to the north is six bays with a door in the fourth bay from the north opening into a stair hall with a room on each side. The remaining section is a two bay unit to the south. At one time there was a door to the street where the northerly of the two windows not is, as evidenced by the filled-in stonework. These two units appear to have been built at separate times because they are divided by a stone partition wall. It is, however, unclear which section was built first.
6. Alterations and additions: The house was burned in a fire that began in a neighbor's house. Reconstruction of the burned house probably began immediately afterwards as Gerrit Van Keuren, the owner at the time, is listed as having lost a house in the burning of Kingston by the British Army on October 16, 1777. All the beams in the basement of the house are charred from an obviously extensive fire. New beams, of green wood, put in place after the fire of 1776 might well have been fire resistant enough to withstand the fire a year later.

Early photographs taken before the extensive restoration of 1923 show a wooden kitchen addition on the rear of the building where the present one is. The two north windows on the ground floor have one piece plain stone lintels and sills. Since this type of construction is characteristic of nineteenth century work in this area, these windows were probably installed or enlarged in the last century. The photos also show three larger gabled dormers on the front, and one large chimney on the north end.

In 1923 extensive restorations were undertaken under the direction of Myron Teller, a well-known Kingston restoration architect. He put the house largely in the state it is in today. The porch was removed from the south end and the door there replaced with the present west window (the two bay section of the house was a separate unit, 136 Green Street, this being its entrance). The middle chimney was replaced, though the south one was not (its base is visible in the basement). The dormers were replaced, a porch added across the rear, kitchen wing rebuilt, and windows and doors repaired or rebuilt.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Marriage and baptismal records indicate that Hendrick Van Weye (Wayen) was from the Overijssel province in Holland and married Annetie Hoogland of Bedford, Long Island in 1684.

Tjerck (Mattyson) Van Keuren was listed as a blacksmith in the deed of 1711 in which he bought the property.

In a 1736 deed to a neighboring property (liber EE, page 361), Tjerck's brother Mathys Van Keuren sold a lot and house bounded by the street that "leads to Capt. Tjerck Van Keuren's."

The various Van Keurens that owned the house after Tjerck were:

Abraham, sone of Tjerck
Gerrit, son of Abraham
Abraham G., son of Gerrit.

The house was among the buildings burned in the conflagration of Kingston by the British Army on October 16, 1777. The house was rebuilt afterwards.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Plans for the 1923 restoration of the house by Myron Teller, architect, in possession of W. Anderson Carl, Kingston, New York.

2. Old Views:

- a. A photocopy view of the north end of the house taken before the 1923 restoration. Original photograph at Senate House Museum, Kingston, New York. Included in the HABS collection.
- b. Photocopies of drawings of the 1923 restoration by Myron Teller included the following: "First Floor Plan", "Second Floor Plan", "South or Green Street Elevation" (the front of the house), "Rear or Yard Elevation", "East End Elevation" and "John Street Elevation and Cross Section". From an unknown source. Included in the HABS collection.

3. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deeds, County Clerk's Office, Ulster County Office Building, Kingston, New York.

Interview, Mr. and Mrs. W. Anderson Carl, owners of the house, 138 Green Street, Kingston, New York.

Wills, Surrogate's Office, Ulster County Office Building, Kingston, New York.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Hasbrouck, Colonel Abraham, diary 1707-1846 (copy), Senate House Museum, Kingston, New York.

Hoes, Roswell Randall, ed. Baptismal and Marriage Registers of the Old Dutch Church of Kingston. New York: 1891

Jaminet, Loretta T. Family Geneology of Van Keurens, letter, in possession of W. Anderson Carl, Kingston, New York.

Olde Ulster, Kingston, New York, 1902-14.

Versteeg, Dingman, translator. Translation of Dutch Records of Kingston, New York. 1895-1989.

Prepared by: William C. Badger
Historian
Historic American Building Survey
Summer 1972

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a fine example of a large rubble stone residence which was built prior to the American Revolution and burned by the British with the village of Kingston in the raid of October 16, 1777. The house has had an exceptionally good job of restoration and reconstruction done to it in the 1920s.
2. Condition of fabric: The house is in excellent condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The house is 67' - 4" (eight-bay front) x 45' - 8" with lean-to additions, and is one-and-a-half stories with an attic and a basement.
2. Foundation: The house sits on a stone foundation.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The walls of the main house are rubble stone. The rear additions are new clapboards on frame construction painted white.
4. Structural system, framing: Stone bearing walls and wood and plaster walls are solid, filled with wattle and daub in places. There is a stone interior bearing wall dividing the length of the house. The wood rafters form an "A" truss.
5. Porches: A new wooden hood shelters the main entrance with a small stone stoop with a wrought-iron railing below. A new "garden porch" addition with bluestone floor is adjacent to rear of the house.
6. Chimneys: Two replaced brick chimneys project above the main ridge line of the roof. One new brick chimney projects above the kitchen addition.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance door is wood paneled and is located in the fourth bay from the north. It has a new transom over it and a molded architrave. There is a notable original divided door constructed of board and batten which leads from the present library to the rear porch. There are other original or re-used board and batten and paneled doors with hardware in other parts of the house.

- b. Windows and shutters: Wooden double-hung windows on the ground floor have new twelve-over-twelve light sashes in old frames. Windows in the new dormers and on the second floor front and side windows are six-over-six light sash double-hung. Rear second floor windows are casement. The new sash that has been added in some places matches the old. There is a notable original casement window in the library room with its hardware and original glass. The wooden shutters are paneled and louvered.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The house has gable roof with clap-board gables. There is a new lean-to roof on the rear. Both roofs are covered with green asphalt shingles.
- b. Dormers: There are five new gabled dormers on the front and four new shed roof dormers on the rear.
- c. Cornice: The cornice on the building is a new molded wooden gutter.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: There is a cellar with three large principal rooms under the main part of the house. It contains the furnace and storage areas of the house. The stair hall, with the original stair, leads up to the principal floor. The portion of the building under the rear addition is not excavated. There are charred floor joists visible to the naked eye.
- b. First floor: The main entrance is the fourth bay from the left of the main facade, and it opens directly into the main stair hall. On either side of this hall are two almost identically shaped rooms. One north room is presently used as a dining room and the other south room used as a library. Directly to the south of the latter through an ante-room with a bath is another large room which now serves as a living room. Beginning to the east of the dining room and extending in lean-to fashion across the rear of the house are the kitchen and its supporting rooms and a laundry. An open porch extends to the end of the house and squares off the roof line.

- c. Second floor: The stair leads to a "good morning" landing, splits and is surrounded by a spacious upstairs hall. Off of this hall on the north of the building is a large bedroom. To the west (front) of the stair hall is a bath and closets. The corridor extends to the south from the stair hall with two bedrooms on either side. It terminates in a large bedroom and a bath suite.
 - d. Attic: The attic is not finished.
- 2. Stairways: The main stair is an open-well, open-string wooden stair with nicely shaped square balusters. It has a simple molded handrail. A "good morning" landing exists two steps before the upstairs stair hall.
 - 3. Flooring: Wide board flooring in excellent condition exists in some rooms of the main portion of the house. The kitchen and the addition have modern vinyl tile floors. The cellar has a bluestone and concrete floor.
 - 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are plaster on wood lath or plaster on stone. Interior plaster walls on the west side of the house are furred off the stone bearing walls. Ceilings in the dining and the library rooms are painted exposed beams and boards. The ceiling in the first floor stair hall has unpainted exposed beams and boards.
 - 5. Doorways and doors: Paneled doors and some board and batten doors are found throughout the house. Some of these have been relocated although they are original to the period of the house.
 - 6. Trim: The mantels in the house are not original. The first floor doors have surrounding moldings.
 - 7. Hardware: The house has some notable wrought-iron hardware, which includes original door latches.
 - 8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: The house is heated by an oil burning furnace and by a low pressure steam.
 - b. Lighting: Activated floor lights for incandescent lighting are in most rooms.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces southwest on Green Street on the south side of the intersection with John Street. The house, on a polygonal lot, is located very close to the sidewalks in the southwest part of the lot.
2. Outbuildings: There is a modern garage in the northwest corner of the lot.

Prepared by: William C. Badger
Historian
Historic American Buildings Survey
Summer 1972

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under joint sponsorship of the National Park Service and the Kingston Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission with financial assistance from the New York Council on the Arts. Measured and drawn during the summer of 1972 under the direction of John Poppeliers, chief of HABS and under the supervision of Roy Eugene Graham (University of Texas at Austin) by student architects Philip D. Ward (University of Washington), A. Carol Boerder (University of Texas at Austin), M. Morgan Gick (University of Notre Dame), and Stephen O. Fildes (Texas Tech University). The drawings were edited in December 1972 by architect John Burns. The written architectural and historical data was prepared by William C. Badger (University of Pennsylvania), the project historian, and edited in January 1980 by Susan McCown, a historian in the HABS office. The photos were taken in August 1973 by Jack E. Boucher of HABS staff.